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“BIG MOOK” SENTENCED TO 196 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Hamilton and His Associates Were Major Cocaine Traffickers

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **CHEVELL HAMILTON, a/k/a “Big Mook,”** age 27, of Shreveport, was sentenced today in United States District Court for his role in a drug trafficking conspiracy in Shreveport. U.S. District Judge Tom Stagg sentenced HAMILTON to spend **196 months in prison.**

HAMILTON was indicted in August 2005 on multiple counts of conspiracy, drug trafficking, and firearms charges. HAMILTON pleaded guilty in January to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine powder, possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Law enforcement authorities considered HAMILTON to be a major cocaine dealer in the Shreveport area. After a lengthy investigation into his drug trafficking activities, federal, state and local agents worked together to arrest HAMILTON, along with several other members of his drug organization in April 2005. Agents knew that HAMILTON would be receiving a delivery of cocaine from a source in Dallas, Texas. Surveillance was conducted and agents observed the exchange of the cocaine and arrested HAMILTON and his co-defendants.

This case was the result of an investigation code named: “Operation: Big Mook,” and was conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Shreveport Police Department into the activities of these individuals who were involved in the distribution of cocaine throughout the Shreveport and Dallas areas. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jim Cowles.

U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: “Crack cocaine and meth addicts rarely succeed at anything in life. They spend their days feeding their addictions. Hamilton and his associates are part of a network of suppliers and traffickers that has created thousands of addicts from Texas to Louisiana. They peddled poisons that destroy or negatively impact lives, families, and communities. We are proud of the men and women who have successfully taken away Hamilton's freedom.”

The remaining defendants and their sentences are as follows:

- **TERRY MOORE**, age 25, of Shreveport, was sentenced March 16, 2006 to 60 months in prison.
- **ALBERT PEGUES**, age 34, of Wiley, Texas, was sentenced March 16, 2006 to 5 years probation and was ordered to forfeit \$18,546 in U.S. currency to the government.
- **ARDIS D. BROWN a/k/a “Wayne,”** age 42, of Dallas, was sentenced April 12, 2006 to 46 months in prison.
- **BOBBY RAY SNOW**, age 24, of Shreveport, was sentenced April 12, 2006 to 120 months in prison.
- **VITO WATKINS**, age 32, of Shreveport, pleaded guilty in January to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. His sentencing date has not yet been set.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

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